Abstract of the Disclosure

A needle protection assembly has a needle hub with a proximal portion and a distal portion. Two sets of spaced apart flanges extend transversely from the proximal portion of the needle hub. A number of arms extend transversely from the distal portion of the needle hub for forming at least one catch and at least one slot. A collar to which a needle protection housing is attached has a proximal end and a distal end. The proximal end of the collar has, at its inner surface, a number of protrusions that are fitted within the space defined by the two sets of flanges, when the collar is press-fitted to the needle hub. The distal end of the collar has a number of fingers or retainers that are used to grasp and removably couple a needle sheath. The needle sheath covers the needle that extends from the distal end of the needle hub before use. The coupling of the needle sheath to the distal end of the collar is such that the needle sheath could not be dislodged accidentally during shipment, and yet can be removed by the application of a predetermined force. Once the needle sheath is removed, the needle that is attached to the distal end of the needle hub may be used. A needle protection housing is pivotally connected to the collar, and is pivoted to cover the needle after use. A channel or opening in the protective housing through which the needle passes is formed by a pair of lips that extend longitudinally along the length of the housing. The lips each are progressively angled toward the interior of the housing and are designed to guide the needle into the housing in a smooth fashion. A spline is provided inside the housing. Once the housing fully covers the needle, the housing may be rotated to cause the spline to coact against a catch at the distal portion of the needle hub to thereby remove the needle hub from the luer end of a syringe.